

REMARKS

Claims 29-48 have been examined. Claims 29, 41 and 48 have been amended. Claims 30, 32-34, 38, 39, 42 and 44-46 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 29 and 35-41 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Crowley. As now amended, independent claim 29 claims a support pillow comprising a cushion body having a medial region and two opposing arms that define a generally open well, with the cushion body having an outer periphery and an inner periphery adjacent the well. Each of the arms terminates in an end. Also, the cushion body comprises a fill material compressed and enclosed within a fabric shell and has a top surface and a bottom surface. A fabric cover is disposed over the cushion body such that the fabric cover conforms generally to the shape of the cushion body. The fabric cover includes at least one pocket disposed along the outer periphery of the cushion body. The pocket comprises a length of fabric that is coupled to the cover such that the pocket extends from the bottom surface to the top surface, has an open top end at the top surface and extends substantially along the entire medial region. Further, the pocket is subdivided into a plurality of sub-pockets by dividers that extend vertically from the bottom surface to the top surface, and the pocket is expandable. Support for such limitations may be found in, for example, Figure 45.

In contrast to the pillow and cover of claim 29, the Crowley patent describes a pillow with three layers of “lap cushions” and has “one or more pockets for storage of such items as bottles, diapers, cellular telephones, and the like.” These may be on “the first and second side walls 70 and 72 and, perhaps, the front, top, and bottom walls 64, 66, and 68.” Col 8, lines 53-60.

Hence, Crowley fails to disclose the specific type of pillow claimed in claim 29 as well as a cover with a specific type of pocket. More specifically, Crowley fails to disclose a

pillow where the pocket extends from the bottom surface to the top surface, has an open top end at the top surface and extends substantially along the entire medial region. Also, the pocket is subdivided into a plurality of sub-pockets by dividers that extending vertically from the bottom surface to the top surface, and the pocket is expandable. Since none of these features are described in Crowley, claim 29 is distinguishable. Claims 35-37 and 40 depend from claim 29 and are distinguishable for at least the same reasons.

As now amended, independent claim 41 claims a covering for a support pillow that is similar to the support pillow and covering of claim 29. Hence, claim 41 is distinguishable for at least the same reasons as previously recited in claim 29.

Claim rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 30-34 and 42-48 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Crowley. Claim 31 depends from claim 29. As previously described, Crowley fails to teach or suggest the specific type of pocket now claimed in claim 29. At best, Crowley teach the use of one or more pockets, but fails to suggest the specific configuration of the pocket or the pillow claimed in claim 29. Hence, claim 31 is distinguishable and in condition for allowance.

Claims 43 and 47 depend from claim 41 which is distinguishable over Crowley for at least the reasons previously described. Hence, claims 43 and 47 are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 48 as now amended claims a support pillow that comprises a pillow body and a cover that are similar to those claimed in claim 29. Hence, claim 48 is distinguishable over the Crowley patent for at least the reasons previously described.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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